(1)	(2)	(3)
5.	Leach	Chamba
6.	Rinda	-do-
7.	Osal	-do-
8.	Rulyani	-do-
9.	Panoh	Hamirpur
10.	Bum	Bilaspur

BRANCH POST OFFICES

1.	Mair	Hamirpur
2.	Jhanjhiani	-do-

Unsatisfactory telephone services in rural areas

†3842. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA :

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :

Will the MINISTER of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the position of telephone services in rural areas of the country is not satisfactory;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard;

(c) whether Government have assessed the reasons for this poor condition; and

(d) if so, whether there is any plan to remedy this situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The telephone services in the rural areas of the country are generally satisfactory but for some problems in the functioning of Village Public Telephones and non availability of reliable media connectivity to all rural exchanges.

(b) to (d) The following steps have been taken to improve the performance of Villlage Public Telephones (VPTs) :

(i) Daily testing of VPTs from the Exchange.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(ii) Daily testing of MARR links from Base station.

(iii) Annual maintenance contract is being entered into with the supplier of the equipment.

(iv) Flying squads have been constituted at Circle/TCHQ level.

(v) New technologies are being tried for provision of village telephone *Viz.* WLL (Wireless in Local Loop), C-DOT TDMA PMP System, Satellite based terminals for remote and inaccessible areas.

(vi) Faulty Village Public Telephones working on MARR system shall be replace by new technology VPTs in a phased manner.

It is proposed to provide reliable transmission media to all the rural exchanges by March 2002.

Expenditure on operating postal services

†3843. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA :

DR. D. MASTHAN :

Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that more expenditure is being incurred on operating postal services against income;

(b) if so, the names of the services where operating expenditure is more against income and to what extent this expenditure is more; and

(c) the details of the services where income is more against the expenditure and to what extent this income is more against the operating expenditure ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) the total average cost of providing some of postal services is more than the average revenue from such services.

(b) The details of postal services where the total average cost is more than the average revenue for the year 1999-2000 (Projection) is given in the enclosed statement *(See* below).

(c) The details of postal services where the average revenue is more than the total average cost for the year 1999-2000 (Projection) is given in the Annexure.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.